

WHAT HAS BECOME OF THE MEDAL OF HONOR MEN?

Colonel Whittlesey's Tragic Death and Fate of Sergeant Woodfil, Once a Captain, Renews Interest in Holders of Nation's Highest Honor, the Congressional Award, but Most of the Fifty-three Heroes Have Dropped From Sight---Some of Those Traced Prosperous and Happy, Others Not So Fortunate

AMERICA is ungrateful, maybe, but in the matter of the men who received for their bravery in France this Republic's highest reward if any forgetfulness has followed they seem to have themselves to blame. Of the seventy-eight men who were awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor several since then have disappeared from view. It is known that fifty-three are living, but even of these the whereabouts of twenty are only vaguely known, while four have vanished without leaving the slightest trace. These lost men are Johannes S. Anderson, first sergeant; Berger Loman, private; Thomas A. Pope, corporal, and Samuel M. Sampler, sergeant.

The New York Herald to trace holders of the medal enlisted the aid of the War Department and that of its correspondents about the country, but to small avail. Letters to the missing men when clues to their addresses turned up remained unanswered and even the authorities at Washington admit they can get no trace of their present whereabouts or of their friends and relatives if they have any.

Since this inquiry widespread and industrious as well as persistent began facts concerning a few of the men who are deeply interesting to the public have been published as a sequel to the story of their war career and sometimes as a finale. Thus the public was pleased to learn that Sergeant York had been aided in the effort to save his little farm, as it was displeased to learn that veteran Woodfil, who had been raised to the rank of captain during the war, had been reduced to that of Sergeant after its close.

The deepest regret was universally felt over the fate of Lieut.-Col. Charles W. Whittlesey, who commanded the "Lost Battalion" in the Argonne and returned home to be invested with many honors and a real pride in his achievement. The strain of those fateful days had left a mental wound that reached to the depths of his soul, and recently the country was shocked to read of his leaving this life by leaping over the side of a ship while on its voyage, the letters that he had written before this act revealing that it had been premeditated and carefully prepared for.

The inquiries of THE NEW YORK HERALD as to the present circumstances of holders of the Congressional medal are given below as the result of personal interviews or correspondence:

SIDNEY G. GUMPERTZ was a top sergeant in Company E, 132d Infantry, who enlisted in Chicago, although he was then and still is a publisher and advertising agent of New York at 101 West Forty-second street. After the performance of the deed of gallantry for which he received the medal Gumpertz was commissioned a first lieutenant.

Mr. Gumpertz has in preparation a book devoted to the records of all the Jewish boys who distinguished themselves by deeds of gallantry in the world war, giving their stories and their present occupations. On this work he has been occupied for two years; this preliminary labor is now approaching completion and the book will soon go to press.

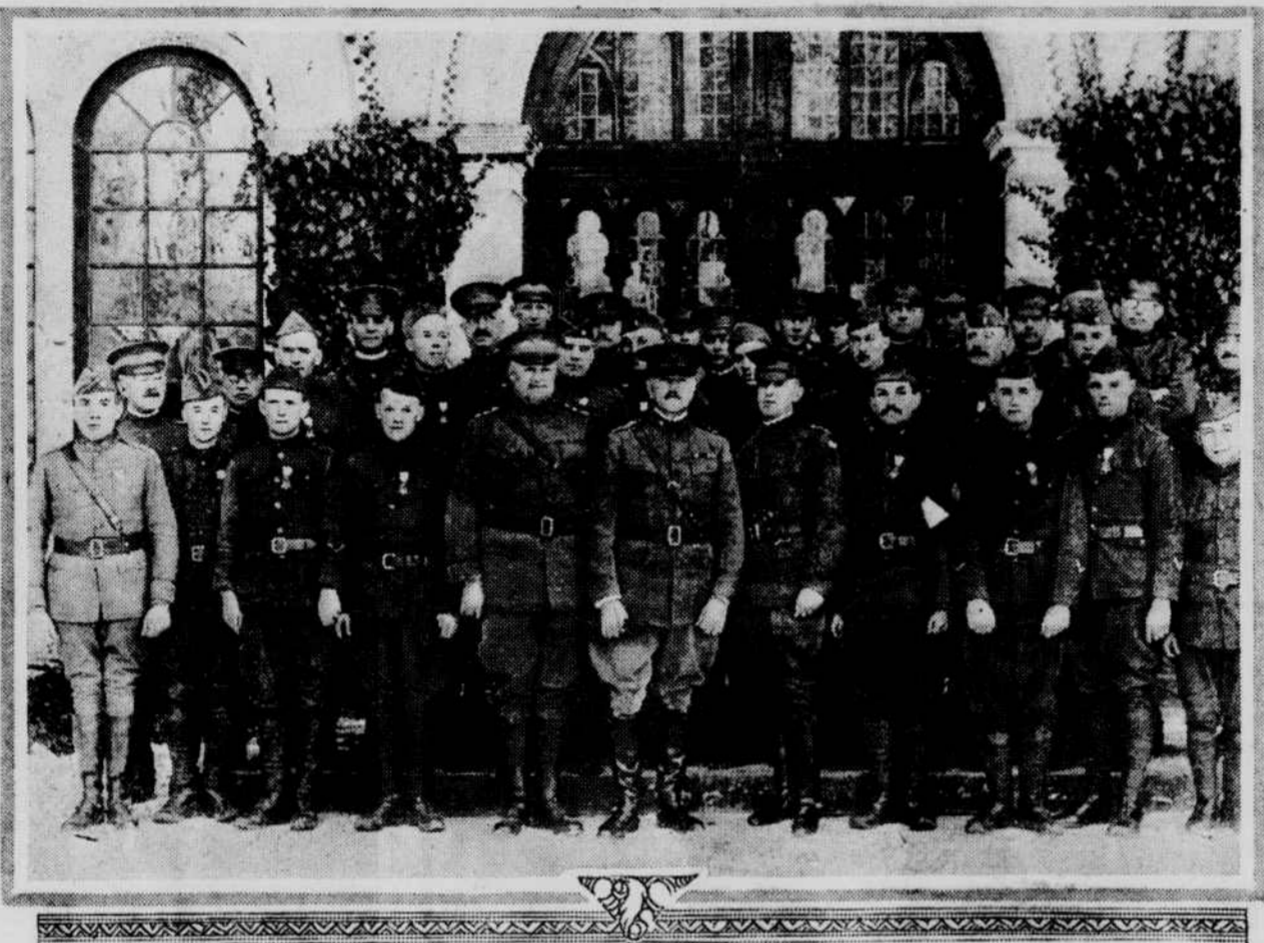
The former lieutenant has kept in touch with all the Medal of Honor soldiers and others who made a notable record in the war who live in or near New York, and on these he is a mine of information, most of which he has incorporated in the forthcoming volume. He shows with a degree of proper pride a letter from Mayor W. S. Fitzgerald of Cleveland dated September 15, 1920, in which is noted the hearty welcome given to him and his comrades with a presentation of the keys of the city in the convention of the American Legion being held in Cleveland.

Sergeant Gumpertz was born in California October 24, 1879, was graduated from the Stockton High School in 1898. He joined the Illinois Infantry, which became the 132d Infantry. He was promoted to sergeant December 27, 1917. With an Italian private, Sebastian Emma, Sergeant Gumpertz cleaned up a dangerous machine gun nest on September 26, 1918, in the Bois de Forges, near Forges Creek. Gumpertz killed the two gunners with his pistol fire and captured fourteen Germans. Half an hour later he met another nest and threw into it a hand grenade, killing several and taking sixteen more prisoners.

The bravery of the sergeant enabled his unit to advance. The official citation for the Medal of Honor for Sergeant Gumpertz was dated January 19, 1919.

CAPTAIN GEORGE G. McMURTRY—In the roll of honor under date of October 2-8 are coupled the names of the Major and a Captain of the 39th Infantry. Charles W. Whittlesey is the former officer and George G. McMurtry the latter. It is not necessary to recall to anybody who has heard the thrilling story of the "Lost

Medal of Honor men entertained by General Pershing at his Chaumont headquarters, Feb. 9, 1919: Front rank, left to right: Major George G. McMurtry, Sergeant Archie Peck, Sergeant W. Sandlin, Corporal Berger Loman, Lieut.-Gen. Hunter Liggett, Gen. Pershing, Capt. Collins, First Sergeant Anderson, First Sergeant Gumpertz, Sergeant Johnston, Corporal Bart. In the rear ranks are: Lieutenants Furlong, Woodfil, Donald Call, Private Thomas Niebur, Capt. Mallon, Privates Slack and Barger, Capt. Allworth and Sergeant Jesse N. Funk. Photo courtesy Sidney G. Gumpertz.



Battalion" that their deeds especially recognized by their country were done in the Argonne.

Captain McMurtry is a wealthy man whose business is to look after his own estate; his home is at 800 Fifth avenue, New York.

While Major Whittlesey and Captain McMurtry and their gallant handful of followers were making their never-to-be-forgotten stand another soldier of the 308th Infantry and one of the 307th, next in line to the right, were doing, in the mazes of the Argonne Forest, the fearless pioneering work that finally permitted the 154th Infantry Brigade (307th and 308th) to reach and relieve the beleaguered men. First Sergeant Benjamin Kaufman contributed not a little to this success.

SERGEANT "BENNIE" KAUFMAN is a travelling salesman for a watch manufacturer. He married recently and is now living in Trenton, N. J., contented and happy. His company was Company K and the citation is dated October 4. Sergeant "Bennie" took out a patrol for the purpose of attacking an enemy machine gun. Before reaching it he became separated from his patrol and a bullet shattered his right arm. He advanced on the gun alone, throwing grenades with his left hand and charging with his pistol. He scattered the German crew and took the machine gun and one prisoner back to the first aid station.

SERGEANT ALAN LOUIS EGGERS, Machine Gun Company, 107th Infantry, reads the date September 29 on his medal. He was cited for courage at Le Cateau. Mr. Eggers is in business with his father, a publisher in New York city.

SERGEANT JOHN CRINDLAND LATHAM, Machine Gun Company, 107th Infantry, awarded the medal for bravery at Le Cateau, September 29, is a landscape gardener, living at 340 East 194th street, New York. He is happy in his work and of course successful. A year and a half ago he married and now he has a baby in the family.

SERGEANT RICHARD O'NEIL, 165th Infantry, was awarded a medal only this year. He is a student and only 23 years old now. His home in New York is at 304 West 114th street.

ARCHIE A. PECK, who won the Congressional Medal of Honor while serving as a private with the 39th Infantry, Seventy-seventh Division, returned to his home in Hornell, N. Y., as soon as mustered out. The morning after his arrival he dropped around in civilian clothes to



Richmyer's grocery where he had been employed as a delivery boy. "Is my job still open?" he asked of Mr. Richmyer.

"Sure," said the storekeeper; "there's always a job here for you, Archie. Where's that medal I hear you won for bravery?"

"I want a job, not medals," said Archie as he hung up his coat and went to work. But in those days the war fever had not yet subsided and people kept dropping into the store and asking Archie about his medal. He never showed it to any one but his mother, and he didn't like to be pestered by curious people always asking him about the war and about his part in it. He stood the hero worship for a few months and then he quit his job. For a long time none but his parents knew where he was, because Archie didn't want people bothering him with questions.

At present he is working in a grocery store in Rochester and it is safe to say that

none of the customers realizes that the frail looking boy who deals out the sugar and tea was one of the most conspicuous heroes of the world war. Archie Peck had a hard time getting into the army. He was rejected six times when he tried to enlist and wasn't even husky enough to get a job with the Y. M. C. A. Finally the draft took him, doctors passed him hurriedly and he went to camp. His parents thought the rigors of the camp and trench would be too much for the lad. But Archie proved before he came home that brawn is not essential to bravery. And since the war he has proved that modesty is also an attribute of bravery.

REIDAR WAALER, sergeant, Company A, 105th Infantry, was cited on September 27 for gallantry at Ronssoy. He is a Norwegian and went back to Norway to visit his people after the armistice, but he is expected to return and make his home in this country. On the same date a posthumous award of the medal was made to William B. Turner, first lieutenant, 105th Infantry, for bravery in the same engagement.

AUGUST JANSEN is the right name of Charles F. Hoffman, Fifth Marines, Second Division, under which assumed cognomen he was cited on June 6 as gunnery sergeant, Forty-ninth Company, Fifth Marines, Chateau Thierry. Jansen ran away from home to enlist. He is now to be found at the recruiting office, U. S. A. Marine Corps in Twenty-third street, New York, and is a member of the St. Rankin Drew Post, named after the aviator son of Sidney Drew and nephew of John Drew. His family persuaded him to resume his own name after his return.

WRITING from Blairtown, Mo., his home, John L. Barkley, a modest war hero, writes:

"I have been farming from the day after I came home from the army until now. When I came home my brothers were ploughing wheat ground and the next morning after I came I was in the field by sun up turning the earth with a plough. I have been farming ever since and expect to do the same for some time. I like farm life because one can be his own boss. I was in college when I was called to the colors and was away from college for two years during the war, but I expect to return.

"I have had several appointments offered me and have refused my name to be placed on any ticket for any political office for I am too young and anyway I would rather be free and independent and let people have these positions who like notoriety.

"I am now in the best of health. I do not

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AWARDS OF THE CONGRESSIONAL MEDAL OF HONOR IN THE WORLD WAR

ALABAMA.

SIDNEY E. MANNING, corporal, Company G, 167th Infantry, Forty-second Division, Flomaton, Ala.

ARIZONA.

***FRANK LUKE, JR.**, Second Lieutenant, First Pursuit Group, Twenty-seventh Aero, Air Service; Phoenix, Ariz.
***JOHN H. PRUITT**, corporal, Seventy-eighth Company, Sixth Regiment, U. S. M. C., Second Division; Phoenix, Ariz.

CALIFORNIA.

PHILLIP C. KATZ, sergeant, Company C, 363d Infantry, Ninety-first Division; San Francisco.
***OSCAR F. MILLER**, major, 361st Infantry, Ninety-first Division; Los Angeles.
PATRICK REGAN, second lieutenant, 115th Infantry, Twenty-ninth Division; Los Angeles.
***HAROLD W. ROBERTS**, corporal, Company A, 344th Battalion, Tank Corps; San Francisco.
LYNN M. SEIBERT, sergeant, Company F, 364th Infantry, Ninety-first Division; Salinas, Cal.
CHESTER H. WEST, first sergeant, Company D, 363d Infantry, Ninety-first Division; Los Banos, Cal.
NELSON M. HOLDERMAN, captain, 307th Infantry, Seventy-seventh Division; Santa Ana, Cal.

COLORADO.

***MARCELLUS H. CHILES**, 356th Infantry, Eighty-ninth Division; Denver.
JESSE N. FUNK, private, 354th Infantry, Eighty-ninth Division; Calhan, Col.
HAROLD I. JOHNSTON, sergeant, 356th Infantry, Eighty-ninth Division; Denver.
***J. HUNTER WICKERSHAM**, second lieutenant, 353d Infantry, Eighty-ninth Division; Denver.

IDAHO.

THOMAS C. NEIBAUER, private, 167th Infantry, Fifty-second Division; Sugar City, Idaho.

ILLINOIS.

JAKE ALLEX, corporal, 131st Infantry, Thirty-third Division; Chicago.
JOHANNES S. ANDERSON, first sergeant, 132d Infantry, Thirty-third Division; Chicago.
MICHAEL B. ELLIS, sergeant, Twenty-eighth Infantry, First Division; East St. Louis, Ill.
SIDNEY G. GUMPERTZ, first sergeant, 132d Infantry, Thirty-third Division; Chicago.
RALYN HILL, corporal, 129th Infantry, Thirty-third Division; Oregon, Ill.
JOHN JOSEPH KELLY, private, Seventy-eighth Company, Sixth Regiment, U. S. M. C., Second Division; Chicago.
BERGER LOMAN, private, 132d Infantry, Thirty-third Division; Chicago.
THOMAS A. POPE, corporal, 131st Infantry, Thirty-third Division; Chicago.

IOWA.

***EMERY J. PIKE**, lieutenant-colonel, machine gun officer, Eighty-second Division; Des Moines.

KANSAS.

GEORGE S. ROBB, first lieutenant, 369th Infantry, Ninety-third Division; Salina, Kan.

KENTUCKY.

WILLIE SANDLIN, sergeant, 132d Infantry, Thirty-third Division; Shoales, Ky.
SAMUEL WOODFIL, first lieutenant, Sixtieth Infantry, 8th Division; Thomas, Ky.

MARYLAND.

***HENRY G. COSTIN**, private, 115th Infantry, Twenty-ninth Division; Baltimore.

MASSACHUSETTS.

***GEORGE DILBOY**, private, 103d Infantry, Twenty-sixth Division; Somerville, Mass.
***MICHAEL J. PERKINS**, private, 101st Infantry, Twenty-sixth Division; South Boston.
CHARLES W. WHITTLESEY, major, 308th Infantry, Seventy-seventh Division; Pittsfield, Mass.

MICHIGAN.

HAROLD A. FURLONG, first lieutenant, 353d Infantry, Eighty-ninth Division; Detroit.

MINNESOTA.

GEORGE H. MALLON, captain, 132d Infantry, Thirty-third Division; Minneapolis.

MISSOURI.

CHARLES D. BARGER, private, 354th Infantry, Eighty-ninth Division; Stotts City, Mo.
JOHN L. BARKLEY, private, Fourth Infantry, Third Division; Blairtown, Mo.
ARTHUR J. FORREST, sergeant, 354th Infantry, Eighty-ninth Division; Hannibal.
M. WALDO HATLER, sergeant, 356th Infantry, Eighty-ninth Division; Neosho.
***ALEXANDER R. SKINKER**, captain, 138th Infantry, Thirty-fifth Division; St. Louis.

NEW JERSEY.

FRANK J. BART, private, Ninth Infantry, Second Division; Newark.
ALAN LOUIS EGGERS, sergeant, 107th Infantry, Twenty-seventh Division; Summit.
JOHN CRINDLAND LATHAM, sergeant, 107th Infantry, Twenty-seventh Division; Rutherford.
L. WARDLAW MILES, captain, 308th Infantry, Seventy-seventh Division; Princeton.
***THOMAS E. O'SHEA**, corporal, M. G. Company, 107th Infantry, Twenty-seventh Division; Summit.
***WILLIAM SAWELSON**, sergeant, 312th Infantry, Seventy-eighth Division; Harrison.
LADIVOUS VAN IERSAL, sergeant, Ninth Infantry, Second Division; Glen Rock, N. J.

NEW YORK.

DONALD M. CALL, second lieutenant, Tank Corps, Larchmont Manor, N. Y.
***WILBUR E. COLLIER**, sergeant, First Engineers, First Division; S. Ozone Park.
FRANK GAFFNEY, private, 108th Infantry, Twenty-seventh Div.; Niagara Falls.
CHARLES F. HOFFMAN, gunnery sergeant, Fifth Marines, Second Division; Brooklyn.
BENJAMIN KAUFMAN, first sergeant, 308th Infantry, Seventy-seventh Division; Brooklyn.
***MATEJ KOKAC**, sergeant, Fifth Regiment, Fifth Marines, Second Division; Binghamton.
GEORGE G. McMURTRY, captain, 308th Infantry, Seventy-seventh Division; New York City.
ARCHIE A. PECK, private, 307th Infantry, Seventy-seventh Division; Hornell.
***WILLIAM BRADFORD TURNER**, first lieutenant, 105th Infantry, Twenty-seventh Division; Garden City, L. I.
REIDAR WAALER, sergeant, 105th Machine Gun Battalion, Twenty-seventh Division; New York City.

NORTH CAROLINA.

***ROBERT L. BLACKWELL**, private, 119th Infantry, Thirtieth Division; Hurdle Mills, N. C.

NORTH DAKOTA.

***FRED E. SMITH**, lieutenant-colonel, 308th Infantry, Seventy-seventh Division; entered service from North Dakota.
***NELS WOLD**, private, 138th Infantry, Thirty-fifth Division; Minnewaukan, N. D.

OKLAHOMA.

GEORGE PRICE HAYS, first lieutenant, Tenth Field Artillery, Third Division; entered service from Oklahoma.
SAMUEL H. SAMPLER, sergeant, 142d Infantry, Thirty-sixth Division; Mangum.
HAROLD L. TURNER, corporal, 142d Infantry, Thirty-sixth Division; Seminole.

OREGON.

EDWARD C. ALLWORTH, captain, Sixtieth Infantry, Fifth Division; entered military service from Oregon.

PENNSYLVANIA.

***JAMES I. MESTROVITCH**, sergeant, Eleventh Infantry, Thirty-eighth Division; Pittsburgh.

SOUTH CAROLINA.

JAMES C. DOZIER, first lieutenant, 118th Infantry, Thirtieth Division; Rock Hill, S. C.
GAREY EVANS FOSTER, sergeant, 118th Infantry, Thirtieth Division; Inman.
***THOMAS LEE HALL**, sergeant, 118th Infantry, Thirtieth Division; Fort Mill.
***JAMES D. HERIOT**, corporal, 118th Infantry, Thirtieth Division; Providence, S. C.
RICHMOND H. HILTON, sergeant, 118th Infantry, Thirtieth Division; Westville.
JOHN C. VILLIPIGUE, corporal, 118th Infantry, Thirtieth Division; Camden.

TENNESSEE.

JOSEPH B. ADKINSON, sergeant, 119th Infantry, Thirtieth Division; Atoka.
JAMES E. KARNES, sergeant, 117th Infantry, Thirtieth Division; Knoxville.
***MILO LEMERT**, first sergeant, 119th Infantry, Thirtieth Division; Crossville.
EDWARD R. TALLEY, sergeant, 117th Infantry, Thirtieth Division; Russellville.
CALVIN JOHN WARD, private, 117th Infantry, Thirtieth Division; Morristown.
ALVIN C. YORK, corporal, 388th Infantry, Eighty-second Division; Pall Mall.

TEXAS.

***DAVID B. BARKELEY**, private, 356th Infantry, Eighty-ninth Division; San Antonio.

VIRGINIA.

EARL D. GREGORY, sergeant, 116th Infantry, Twenty-ninth Division; Chase City.

WISCONSIN.

CLAYTON K. SLACK, private, 124th Machine Gun Battalion, Thirty-third Division; Madison.
*Posthumous award.

Left to right are these Congressional Medal of Honor men: Lieut.-Col. C. W. Whittlesey (now dead); Private John Kelly, U. S. Marine Corps; Capt. George G. McMurtry; Sergeant Alvin C. York; Sergeant S. G. Gumpertz; Sergeant M. Waldo Hatler; Capt. Samuel Woodfil.

